

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Dave Reser, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Revision to instructions for devised titles in RDA 2.3.2.11

ABSTRACT: This proposal recommends providing greater flexibility for the general instructions on devising a title proper.

The constituency responses to 6JSC/LC/32 showed general agreement in principle, with many useful suggestions to improve the original proposal. This revision addresses the proposed changes. The mark-up is based on existing RDA text, with highlighting used to signal revisions resulting from constituency comments. Comments on examples have been referred to the Examples Editor and are not presented here.

Constituency Comments Addressed:

This revised proposal reflects these constituency comments:

- Removal of the word “descriptive” from the “then” statement because not all categories are necessarily descriptive (ACOC, BL).
- Revert to current RDA use of “indicates” over the proposed “includes” to avoid altering a) and b) (CCC).
- Revise d) because it is redundant with the “then” statement (BL).
- Add e) to reflect devised titles that are based on titles of other resources. The exact wording suggested by ALA was revised because a general list is better understood when the list items do not have conditions and we didn’t think this should be elevated to a separate sub-instruction. Also, using “the title of the original work” invites questions about language and script that are unnecessarily complicating.
- Divided the paragraph following the itemized list (before the examples) on language and script to clarify the applicability and create separate example boxes for the resulting paragraphs (based on comments from ACOC and CCC).

Constituency Comments not Addressed:

- CCC questioned whether the existing Alternative should be moved to be the base instruction (we presume to replace the paragraph immediately prior to the example box). LC did not include this suggestion in the revision because: 1) the current base instruction follows ISBD 1.1.4.5 (“...in the language and script of the resource, or for a resource having no language, the language and script chosen by the cataloguing agency.”); and, 2) the NLA PS, in essence, follows the base rule. The JSC may wish to discuss this topic further.
- ALA commented about the relation of the instructions in 2.3.2.11 and 6.2.2.6.2. We note that the preferred title for a work should only be devised if 1) the application of 6.2.2.4-6.2.2.5 and 6.2.2.7 does not result in choosing a preferred title; or, 2) there is no title found in reference sources in the language of the

agency per 6.2.2.6. So acataloger should only be directed to the devised title instructions in 6.2.2.6.2 and the reference within it to 2.3.2.11 if all other possibilities for choosing a preferred title have been exhausted.

Proposed Revision

2.3.2.11 Recording Devised Titles

If:

the resource itself has no title (see [2.3.2.10](#))

and

a title cannot be found in any of the other sources of information specified at [2.2.4](#)

then:

devise a brief **descriptive** title that **indicates** ~~either~~ one or more of the following:

a) the nature of the resource (e.g., map, literary manuscript, diary, advertisement)

or

b) its subject (e.g., names of persons, corporate bodies, objects, activities, events, geographical area and dates)

or

c) ~~a combination of the two, as appropriate.~~ the opening words of a text, etc.

d) a brief phrase that characterizes the resource

e) a title based on a related resource (e.g., the title of a choreographic resource that is based on the related music).

Use the language and script appropriate to the content of the resource being described, except where instructed to use specific terminology (see [2.3.2.11.1-2.3.2.11.4](#)).

EXAMPLE

Anarchist bombing, Union Square, New York City, March 1908

Typescript draft of chapters 3-20 of Natchez pilgrimage

Pleasure boat on the Murray River, Mildura, Victoria

Sydney Bicycle Club badge

Dance poster collection

Posters of World War I

Letters from Don Banks to Suzanne Gleeson

Ich bin gern allein
Opening words of an unpublished poem

Alternative

Devise a title in a language and script preferred by the agency preparing the description.

EXAMPLE

Bookmark with Chinese proverb

If the language and script appropriate to the content of the resource is not obvious or not applicable, record the title in the language and script preferred by the agency preparing the description.

EXAMPLE

Portrait of General Emiliano Zapata and his staff, Puebla, Mexico
Title devised for a painting

I need a dollar

Devised title proper for an untitled choreography by Christopher Dean that was used as the short program of figure skater Patrick Chan in multiple figure skating competitions; Chan skated the program to the song I need a dollar

Anarchist bombing, Union Square, New York City, March 1908
Title devised for a photograph

Dance poster collection

Title devised for a collection of posters with some text in various languages, none of which is obviously predominant

If the resource is a type that would normally have identifying information (e.g., a published book), make a note to indicate that the title has been devised (see [2.17.2.3](#)).

Apply these additional instructions for special types of resources, as applicable:

music (see [2.3.2.11.1](#))

cartographic resources (see [2.3.2.11.2](#))

moving image resources (see [2.3.2.11.3](#))

archival resources and collections (see [2.3.2.11.4](#)).

Clean copy

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If:

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a title cannot be found in any of the other sources of information specified at [2.2.4](#)

then:

devise a brief title that indicates one or more of the following:

- a) the nature of the resource (e.g., map, literary manuscript, diary, advertisement)
- b) its subject (e.g., names of persons, corporate bodies, objects, activities, events, geographical area and dates)
- c) the opening words of a text, etc.
- d) a brief phrase that characterizes the resource
- e) a title based on a related resource (e.g., the title of a choreographic resource that is based on the related music).

Use the language and script appropriate to the content of the resource being described, except where instructed to use specific terminology (see [2.3.2.11.1-2.3.2.11.4](#)).

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